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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/003,381	12/06/2001	Tomihiko Azuma	040373-0313	5360
22428	7590	08/18/2006	EXAMINER	
FOLEY AND LARDNER LLP			OUELLETTE, JONATHAN P	
SUITE 500			ART UNIT	
3000 K STREET NW			PAPER NUMBER	
WASHINGTON, DC 20007			3629	

DATE MAILED: 08/18/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
	10/003,381		AZUMA, TOMIHIKO	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
	Jonathan Ouellette		3629	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 June 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Claims 14-16 have been added; therefore Claims 1-16 are now pending in application 10/003,381.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

3. **Claims 4 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.** The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.
4. Claims 4 and 14 have been amended (added) to include subject matter regarding adding unevaluated customizing information to the personal environment of the user. This subject matter (process steps) is not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. **Claims 1-16** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Cheng (US 6,067,548).
7. As per **independent Claims 1 and 13**, Cheng discloses a business information system [method] comprising: an organization definition information storing unit for storing organization definition information for defining an organization (C5 L45-65, organizational model), each item of the organization definition information being stored as a triple-set of division information, item information, and content (Fig.9, example of stored information relationship – triple set/level); a contents storing unit for storing contents that include either a procedure or information provided for users or both of them (C17-19, create organizational model); a customizing information storing unit for storing in set, as customizing information, a customizing condition set as information customizing an utilization environment by use of arbitrary organization definition information stored in said organization definition information storing unit (C18-19, define and store resources and relationships), a procedure corresponding to the customizing condition (automated system for managing information would inherently include systematic procedures), and information for indicating contents to be provided as utilization environment in a case where the customizing condition is established (C18-19,

define and store resources and relationships); an organization definition information registering means for storing input organization definition information in said organization definition information storing unit (C18-19, create corporate directory information); a customizing information registering means for storing in set, as customizing information, input customizing condition and information indicating contents to be provided in a case where the customizing condition is established, in said customizing information storing unit (C18-19, users enter information and define attributes); and a personal environment constructing means for acquiring the customizing information from said customizing information storing unit, for judging whether or not the customizing condition is established with regard to each user by utilizing the organization definition information stored in said organization definition information storing unit, and for acquiring the contents stored in set together with the customizing condition from said contents storing unit in a case where the customizing condition is established, thereby adding the acquired contents to a personal environment of the user (Fig.10, C18-19, employee information is save and displayed as specified by the use; Claims 1-10).

8. As per Claim 2, Cheng discloses wherein said organization definition information comprises at least one of information representing organization hierarchy, information representing partial organization, information representing distribution of personnel, and information relative to a job of each of individuals (C18).
9. As per Claim 3, Cheng discloses wherein said information relative to the job of each of the individuals comprises information representing at least one of an employee

identification number, a name, an occupational position, a covering job, a function, a duty, a knowledge, an experience, and a location (C18).

10. As per Claims 4 and new Claim 14, Cheng discloses wherein said organization definition information storing unit stores authentication information indicating that each of individuals is a true user of the business information system, and wherein at least one of said organization definition information registering means, said customizing information registering means and said personal environment constructing means executes a processing only when a user is a true user of the business information system, on a basis of the input authentication information of the user (C18, security information), and wherein, when the user is determined to be a true user of the business information system (authorized), unevaluated customizing information is acquired from the customizing information storing unit by the personal environment constructing means, and an inspection is executed by the personal environment constructing means as to whether or not the customizing condition is established, and if the customizing condition is established, the unevaluated customizing information is added to a personal environment of the user by the personal environment constructing means (C8-C9, establishing virtual links based on owner/user/ID information).
11. As per Claims 5 and 6, Cheng discloses wherein said organization definition information storing unit stores authentication information indicating that each of individuals is a true user of the business information system, and wherein at least one of said organization definition information registering means, said customizing information registering means and said personal environment constructing means executes a processing only when a

user is a true user of the business information system, on a basis of the input authentication information of the user (C18, security information).

12. As per Claims 7-12, Cheng discloses wherein said customizing condition is capable of being defined by a complex condition, which is a combination of a plurality of conditions (Claim 1).
13. As per new Claims 15 and 16, Cheng discloses wherein the division information includes a first type of data corresponding to information pertinent to an entire company, and a second type of data corresponding to information pertinent to each respective individual of the entire company (Fig.3, Enterprise information, and Member information).

Response to Arguments

14. Applicant's arguments filed 6/1/2006 have been fully considered but are not persuasive. The rejection will remain as FINAL, based on the cited prior art.
15. A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

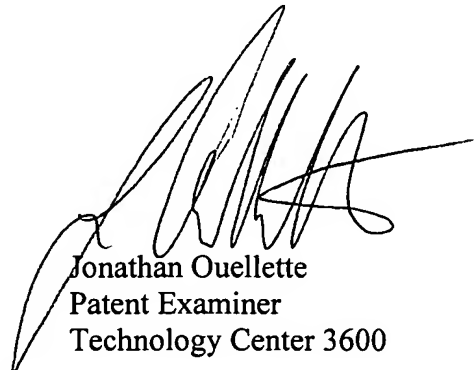
16. The Applicant has made the argument that the cited prior art fails to teach or disclose wherein each item of the organization definition information being stored as a triple-set of division information, item information, and content.
17. However, Cheng discloses a stored information relationship that is equivalent to the triple set method disclosed in the instant application (Fig.9 – Division, Management area / item information, Area information / content).
18. The Applicant has also made the argument that the cited prior art fails to teach or disclose wherein the customizing condition set includes information customizing an utilization environment, a procedure corresponding to the customizing condition, and information for indicating contents to be provided as utilization environment.
19. However, Cheng discloses an automated system for managing organization information, with the ability to define and store resources and relationships (C18-19). Furthermore, the automated system disclosed by Cheng would inherently include systematic procedures necessary to manage the organization information.
20. Finally, the Applicant has also made the argument that the cited prior art fails to teach or disclose wherein, when the user is determined to be a true user of the business information system, unevaluated customizing information is acquired from the customizing information storing unit by the personal environment constructing means, and an inspection is executed by the personal environment constructing means as to whether or not the customizing condition is established, and if the customizing condition is established, the unevaluated customizing information is added to a personal environment of the user by the personal environment constructing means.

21. However, Chang discloses establishing user specific (customized) virtual links (environment) based on authorized owner information (C8-C9).

Conclusion

22. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jonathan Ouellette whose telephone number is (571) 272-6807. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday, 8am - 5:00pm.
23. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on (571) 272-6812. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned (571) 273-8300 for all official communications.
24. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Office of Initial Patent Examination whose telephone number is (703) 308-1202.

August 10, 2006



Jonathan Ouellette
Patent Examiner
Technology Center 3600